

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending in the application. Claim 1 has been amended herein. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicants have amended Fig. 5 to include the label "Conventional Art" as requested by the Examiner.

I. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants again acknowledge with appreciation the noted allowability of claims 1-11 subject to addressing any issues of indefiniteness.

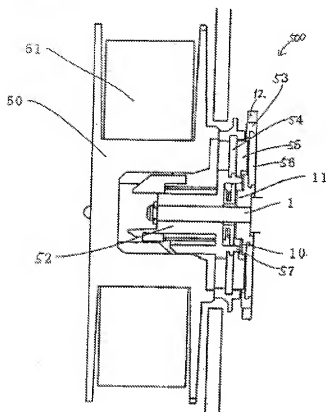
II. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-11 UNDER 35 USC §112, 2nd ¶

Claims 1-11 remain rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection for at least the following reasons.

The Examiner continues to object to the phrase "no wall is provided between the rotation shaft and the contact area...are in contact with each other" in claim 1. The Examiner states that applicants cannot define the present invention as a comparison between the present invention and the conventional art.

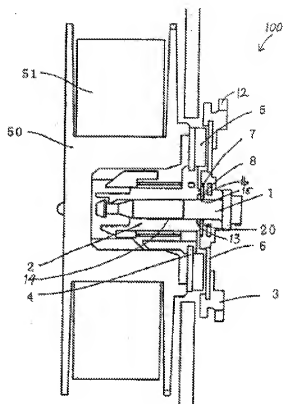
Consequently, applicants have amended claim 1 in order to recite the features of the invention more positively and to avoid the language objected to by the Examiner. Specifically, applicants have amended claim 1 to recite that "an unobstructed path exists in a plane perpendicular to the rotation shaft between the rotation shaft and a contact area at which the first rotatable body and the second rotatable body are in contact with each other".

FIG.5



Conventional

FIG.1



Present Invention

For example, in FIG. 5 of the present application (reproduced above and representing the conventional art), there is no unobstructed path existing in a plane perpendicular to the rotation shaft as recited in amended claim 1. If one were to draw a path between the contact portion 57 and the shaft 1 in a plane which was perpendicular to the rotation shaft 1, the path would be *obstructed* by the wall 11.

Conversely, FIG. 1 (reproduced above) exemplifies the present invention. Specifically, an unobstructed path exists in the plane perpendicular to the rotation shaft between the contact portion 13 and the shaft 1.

Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that amended claim 1 clearly and positively recites the features of the invention so as to distinguish over the conventional art without reciting a comparison with the conventional art. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

If for any reason the Examiner feels the applicants have not adequately addressed the Examiner's concern, applicants invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned via telephone to resolve any outstanding issues.

III. CONCLUSION

Accordingly, all claims 1-11 are believed to be allowable and the application is believed to be in condition for allowance. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner feel that a telephone interview would be helpful to facilitate favorable prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Should a petition for an extension of time be necessary for the timely reply to the outstanding Office Action (or if such a petition has been made and an additional extension is necessary), petition is hereby made and the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees (including additional claim fees) to Deposit Account No. 18-0988.

Respectfully submitted,

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